

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-29 (Cancelled).

Claim 30 (New) Antibodies raised against a Staphylococcus epidermidis protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15 or a polypeptide having fibrinogen binding activity and having the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 13 or a fusion protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15 or SEQ ID NO: 13.

Claim 31 (New) Method for using antibodies according to claim 30 for therapeutic and prophylactic purposes.

Claim 32 (New) Method according to claim 31, wherein antibodies according to claim 1 are used for inhibition of adherence of Staphylococci to fibrinogen.

Claim 33 (New) Method according to claim 31, wherein antibodies according to claim 30 are used for passive immunization of a mammal by administration of said antibodies to said mammal.

Claim 34 (New) Method for using antibodies according to claim 30 for diagnostic purposes.

Claim 35 (New) Method according to claim 34, wherein antibodies according to claim 30 are used as diagnostic antigens in the detection of immunological binding of fibrinogen to a Staphylococcus epidermidis protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15 or a polypeptide having

Divisional of 09/147,405

fibrinogen binding activity and having the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 13 or a fusion protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15 or SEQ ID NO: 13.